

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5576
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015
ENCROACHMENT IN SUNDERBANS
Hari Shri G.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether encroachment of forest land and unauthorized constructions in the Sunderbans have been reported;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Eastern Bench of the National Green Tribunal has directed the concerned authority to set up a panel to monitor the Sunderbans; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) As per the report received from Government of West Bengal in general there are no encroachments in Sunderbans except following two cases:

(i) Encroachment in Saptamukhi-I Forest Block is in Purba Bijoybati and Debinibas under Bakkhali Range. About 5 hectares of land under goes seasonal encroachment every year during the season of fish drying.

(ii) Encroachment in 24-Parganas (South) Forest Division is about 10 hectares of forest land at Lot no. 8, Harwood Point, Kakdwip, which is being utilized by West Bengal Fisheries Corporation Ltd., Govt. of West Bengal without approaching the Forest Department, Government of West Bengal for formal diversion of forest land for non-forest use.

(c) & (d) The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Bench has directed the Government of West Bengal that a committee may be constituted to monitor the various activities in the Sunderban forest area concerning different departments which inter-alia include the monitoring and measures to be taken with reference to environment protection, violation of the Coastal Regulation Zone notification and illegal activities viz. construction of illegal embankment for shrimps culture, illegal felling of trees, etc. The committee will monitor the entire issue through the Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal as a continuing process to make the Sunderban area a pollution free zone and to keep its environment intact with regard to Coastal Regulation Zone Notification and other regulations of environmental projects.